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OUT: A NEGATIVE LIST THAT'S DETRIMENTAL TO IMAGE OF POLICE

The Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) has come out with a list outlining acts and behaviour damaging the image of police

FLAGS MISCONDUCT, INSENSITIVE PRACTICES

The list, compiled by the police research organisation over a period of one year, highlighted systemic shortcomings in the police machinery, which include 'misconduct and insensitive practices' that erode public trust and undermine credibility leading to weakening of the relationship between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve | P9

'NO ROOM FOR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR'

- BPR&D has suggested that DGPs give special attention to the way police interact with the public, and warned that aggressive or insensitive behaviour "leaves a lasting impact on public perception"
- Report says that delays in registration of FIRs, misuse of preventive measures, and false cases lead to erosion of public trust

2024

AT LAST YEAR'S DGP CONFERENCE, BPR&D WAS TASKED WITH THE LIST

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Possible thaw as PM reciprocates Trump positivity

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a sign of a possible thaw amid ongoing trade tensions and tariff pressure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reaffirmed India's commitment to its partnership with the United States, responding positively to the remarks by US President Donald Trump.

Taking to X, Modi said: "Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties. India and the US have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership."

Modi's response came hours after President Trump described the India-US relationship as "very special" during a White House press briefing, during which he said: "I'll always be friends with Modi. He's a great prime minister." However, Trump also added: "I just don't like what he is doing at this particular moment."

When asked whether he was open to resetting ties, Trump said: "I always will. I'll always be friends with Modi... But India and the US have a very special relationship. There is nothing to worry about."

The exchange comes against the backdrop of rising trade friction between the two countries, including the US decision to double tariffs on key Indian goods to 50%. The move, linked in part to India's continued purchase of Russian crude oil, has been termed by New Delhi as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

Responding to a question on his post suggesting the US was "losing India and Russia to China," Trump said, "I don't think we have. I've been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil from Russia."

Despite these differences, both sides have emphasised their long-term strategic relationship. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday underscored the importance Modi places on the US partnership. He said "PM Modi attaches enormous importance to our partnership with the US. Where President Trump is concerned, he (PM Modi) has always had a very good personal equation with President Trump. But the point is that we remain engaged with the US, and at this time, I can't say more than that."

The latest comments come weeks after Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping were seen together at the SCO summit in Tianjin, China.

Special bilateral relationship: Don

"I get along very well with Modi as you know... India and the US have a special relationship. There is nothing to worry about," Trump said

ODISHA LITERARY FESTIVAL

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi lights the lamp to inaugurate the Odisha Literary Festival 2025 as TNIE CEO Lakshmi Menon, Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla and Resident Editor Siba Mohanty look on, in Bhubaneswar on Saturday; and (left) actor and director Amol Palekar speaks during the session 'Comrades in Arts: Love, Life, and Literature' at the event | SHAMIM QURESHY/ DEBADATTA MALLICK | P5

ECI to meet all CEOs on SIR on Sept 10

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

UNDETERRED by the huge controversy over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Election Commission of India has called a meeting of all Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of states and Union Territories on September 10 to discuss preparedness to conduct similar exercise elsewhere across the country, officials said on Saturday.

Apart from SIR for other states, the meeting would also discuss issues relating to holding upcoming assembly elections later this year in Bihar and in few other states including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry next year.

Buzz on nationwide SIR from January 1

ECI is likely to launch SIR for the rest of the country with the qualifying date of January 1, 2026. In an order on June 24, ECI had hinted nationwide SIR, but only rolled it out for Bihar ahead of Assembly election in the state

The meeting is going to be the third of its kind since Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar took charge on February 19 this year, and will be attended by election commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi apart from CEC Kumar.

A senior poll panel official said, "Even as the final agenda for the meeting is yet to be finalised, during the deliberations, it is expected that the Commission is going to make an assessment of the preparedness of different states to take up SIR exercise, as after Bihar the next round of intensive revision exercises are going to be taken up in those states, which are scheduled to go for assembly polls next year."

They, however, confirmed that all the CEOs have been asked to make presentations with regards to the number of electors and the details of the last SIR conducted in their respective states and UTs.

Opposition parties including RJD, Congress, CPI, CPM, TMC, SP and DMK are against a nationwide SIR.

Committed to tripartite talks for political deal: Kuki-Zos

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Guwahati

THE Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) – umbrella organisations of Kuki-Zo rebel groups – on Saturday said the reopening of National Highway-2 in ethnic violence-hit Manipur "must not be misinterpreted as an endorsement of unrestricted movement between Meitei and Kuki-Zo areas".

KNO and UPF recently signed a deal with the Centre to extend the Suspension of Operations agreement.

In a joint statement, they sais contrary to "misinformed" narratives, the Kuki-Zos never closed or blocked NH-2. "KNO and UPF reiterate that this gesture must not be misinterpreted as an endorsement of unrestricted movement across buffer zones between Meitei and Kuki-Zo areas. The sanctity of these zones remains paramount, and the responsibility for securing the highway lies with the Government of India and its deployed force," they said.

They added that they would uphold the people's aspiration in future political dialogues for the creation of a Union Territory with legislature for the Kuki-Zo people within the Constitution of India. Stating that the path forward lies in dialogue and not division, the statement said the government, KNO and UPF reaffirmed their commitment to a structured and time-bound tripartite dialogue for a negotiated political settlement under the Constitution.

Meitei organisation Arambai Tenggol welcomed the tripartite peace agreement.

POLITICAL JACKPOT

Smaller parties see advantage in GBA move to up number of wards to 500

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

WITH the formation of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five corporations and the total number of wards in the city to be around 500, it is a jackpot for smaller parties to make a mark in theupcoming elections to the corporations.

Each ward will have approximately 20,000 population and parties like Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Karnataka Rashtra Samiti (KRS) and Bengaluru

Navanirmana Party (BNP) see the elections as a great opportunity and say this is the right time for fresh faces to enter the political arena

and win. They said that from the political perspective, smaller wards are advantageous to smaller parties.

National Joint Secretary of AAP, Prithvi Reddy, said, "Earlier, politicians from traditional parties had a lot of advantage. Even if the wards were reserved for women, they fielded their wives to continue their domination with money and muscle power. Their fiefdom will be challenged with existing 198 wards split into 500 new wards. It will be a level playing ground, as bigger parties and their candidates will not have any major advantage on their side like earlier."

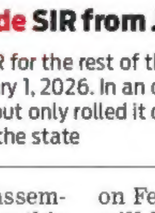
He said, "Each ward is expected to have around 20,000 population, with around 10,000 voters, which means candidates have to visit approximately 2,000 houses. Even if a candidate visits 50 houses in person in a day for his door-to-door campaign, he can cover 2,000 houses in about 40 days, a time given from the election notification to the day of voting, without spending a lot of money." P2

Senthil files suit against Gali in Dharmasthala case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A political drama has erupted as Congress MP **Sasikant Senthil** has slapped a criminal defamation case against Gangavathi MLA and former BJP minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, who has been accused of dragging his name into the murky Dharmasthala burial case.

The case, filed before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court, will be heard on September 11.



Senthil, a former IAS officer, claimed that Reddy's statements are nothing short of cheap slander and a character assassination attempt.

He was a strong critic of saffronisation and he resigned after the abrogation of Article 370 that granted a special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir. He had then called it a broader fascist strategy that would undermine India's democratic fabric over time.

Reddy had alleged that Senthil was the "mastermind" behind the burial site scandal, and also charged that the former IAS officer was the one who sent the "mask man" to claim that hundreds of bodies of rape victims and others had been buried at Dharmasthala village.

Senthil, who was a deputy commissioner of Dakshina Kannada, hit back, saying. "Why drag my name into this? I haven't had contact with these people in years. This is a reckless stunt. I will fight in court for the truth." He branded Reddy, once jailed in mining scams, as a man with no moral right to accuse others. He alleged, "He looted crores of Karnataka's wealth, went to prison, and now spins wild stories. I trust the law to strip this farce bare."

Reddy alleged that Senthil, a pawn in Tamil Nadu politics, was weaponised for religious manipulation. Senthil condemned the remark as an attempt to inject communal poison into an already volatile issue. "This is bigger than me. This is about fake narratives fed with fear and faith. Karnataka's people know better," he added.

New Canada report traces Khalistani terror finance

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AT least two Khalistani extremist groups have received financial support, originating from Canada, for politically motivated violent activities, according to a new Canadian government report on terror financing.

The report titled '2025 Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks in Canada' has identified the Khalistani extremist groups receiving financial support originating from Canada as Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation.

These groups, categorized under Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE), are suspected of exploiting funding networks, including non-profit and charitable sectors, to support their objectives.

The report classifies terrorist threats into three categories: Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE), PMVE, and Religiously Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE).

While IMVE attacks by lone actors have caused the most fatalities in Canada over the past decade, PMVE and RMVE groups rely on sophisticated international financing networks. PMVE groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Khalistani extremists, are noted for abusing the banking infrastructure, cryptocurrencies and charitable organisations, the report said.

RISKY BET

Students cross highway as school has no toilet

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

NATURE'S call is an irritating subject at Lingappa Shankarappa Mailar Government High School in Hombal, near Gadag. The co-ed school, where over 200 students study, has a pink toilet but no running water, forcing the wards to go to an open ground for defecation after crossing the Nargund Road, which is a busy state highway.

When the school was set up in 1990, there were two small toilets. Over the years, the toilets were not maintained and the sheets covering the roof have blown away in heavy rain and wind. Parents worry that their children have to cross the busy highway to attend nature's call. Some girls go to their homes or go elsewhere outside. With parents putting pressure, the school committee has requested the local administration to get functioning toilets in the school. Otherwise, teaching standards and extra-curricular activities are fine at the school, the parents said.

Students of the government school in Hombal cross the highway to attend nature's call

The school authorities said they have approached the local gram panchayat several times.

Basavaraj Timmagonnavar, a local resident, said, "The parents are worried as the students have to cross the busy highway. We have requested the school committee to build toilets for both girls and boys."

Rupeshkumar, a senior teacher, said, "As per the instructions of the education department, the principal has submitted a memorandum to the gram panchayat but no action has been taken."

An official from the education department said gram panchayat is responsible for the toilet.

DRUG BUST

MATERIALS WORTH ₹12,000 CR SEIZED

Maharashtra police have busted a synthetic drug manufacturing unit in Hyderabad that was allegedly supplying narcotic to the state | P5